Need to approve the proposal of Kerala Government for the

Rehabilitation of farmers residing in lease-hold forest land in and

Around Sultan Bathery Wild Life Division in Wayanad District.

SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN (CALICUT): Sir, I would like to bring to your kind notice about the sad plight of the poor farmers residing in and around Sulthan Bathery wild life division in Wayanad district of Kerala. They live in the forest land having in their possession small plots of cultivable forest land taken on these by them many years ago. They are not encroachers, and in fact they were in those days persuaded by the then Governments to settle down in the fertile areas of forest under the grow-more-food scheme. In Wayanad, there are about 800 small holdings in different parts covering a total area of 500 hectares of forest land. These farmers do not have their own holdings, nor do they have any right to construct good houses to live in, or to avail loan to improve their cultivation. They have no security whatsoever against attacks by wild animals nor do they have any right to claim compensation for damage of property or loss of life. In this connection, recently the Government of Kerala have prepared a scheme to rehabilitate the farmers, either by giving them land away from the forest or by giving them reasonable compensation. This scheme can be materialised, only if the Central Government approve the same. I therefore, request the Government to come to the rescue of these ill-fated human beings.

(ends)